

High School 2004 Released Prompt

Ideas & Content

Prompt A

Your community is concerned about the lack of structured activities for youth after school and on weekends. The community leaders are planning the construction of a new youth center.

Write an essay to be read by community leaders convincing them what activities should be included at the youth center. Explain how the activities will have a positive influence on the youth.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- A clearly stated position.
- Specific, appropriate reasons.
- Persuasive word choice.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

IDEAS and CONTENT

<p>6</p> <p>The writing is exceptionally clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support • a thorough, balanced, in-depth explanation/ exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation/exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose. • clear main idea(s) • supporting details that are relevant, but may be overly general or limited in places; when appropriate, resources are used to provide accurate support. • a topic that is explored/explained, although developmental details may occasionally be out of balance with the main idea(s); some connections and insights may be present. • content and selected details that are relevant, but perhaps not consistently well chosen for audience and purpose. 	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">APPENDIX B – Official Scoring Guide for AIMS Writing</p>
<p>The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose and main idea(s). • predictable or overly-obvious main ideas or plot; conclusions or main points seem to echo observations heard elsewhere. • support that is attempted; but developmental details that are often limited in scope, uneven, somewhat off-topic, predictable, or overly general. • details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources; they may be based on clichés, stereotypes or questionable sources of information. • difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics. 	<p>2</p> <p>Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inferences by the reader. • minimal development; insufficient details. • irrelevant details that clutter the text. • Extensive repetition of detail. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear. • attempts at development that are minimal or non-existent; the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea. 	

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Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Dear community leaders I think you should consider having basketball, Baseball and football as some of the activities. My friends and I could have a lot of fun at the youth center. We can also help raise money for more equipment.

The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. While activities are mentioned and having fun at a youth center is mentioned, the paper is characterized by ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear, attempts at development are minimal; the paper is too short to demonstrate development of an idea.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

I think that they should have a basketball court. They should also have a ping pong table and a pool table. They should have a pinball machine. Then they should have an indoor basketball court or have bike ramps or dirtbike ramps. These will have an influence on them to show them how to play. It will also show them how to chalk up their sticks for pool. It will also keep them off the streets. They will play basketball to show them how teamwork works that they now how to win the game.

Main ideas are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The paper lists several activities but does not relate them to a youth center. The paper is characterized by a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inference by the reader.

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The community center is looking for new activities to be used at the new youth center. They would like us to find activities that the kids would like to do on weekends and after school. We would come up with ideas by asking kids what they would like to do the best. We we could build sports fields, pools / hot tub and swing set for the younger group.

We can build millions of different things like a sports field for soccer or flag football. We can build an inside pool / hot tub for those really hot days or those really cold days. We could also build a weight training room so kids can go work on some steam or just to go build some muscles. We can have a basketball court so that kids can work on their ball skills and every once a week we could have a tournament. We could have a study room for

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those kids who needed to study for a test or who just wanted to read, we can have a arts and craft room for those who like to do arts and crafts.

We can have a feild, a pool and a hot tub a weight training room to keep kids of the street and to keep them all instrusted with what we have. we need to keep all the kids intrust in mind so we can get all kind of kids invuded with our youth group. Are goal is to build a youth group that has things in it that kids of all ages will enjoy and will want to keep coming back.

The reader can understand the main ideas... Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general... For example, "We can build million of different things..." the nouns *millions* and *things* are vague. While support ...is attempted; details are not well-grounded in credible resources.



writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

It is a Friday night; your children and their friends are anxious to get out of the house and have some fun. Wouldn't you as parents be more comfortable letting them go if they were going to a safe, supervised place? It has become difficult in today's society to find a place where your child wants to go to, that is both well supervised and fun. Youth centers offer that very setting; a place with many enjoyable activities available that also keeps your children safe. In order to offer that ideal setting that meets what both adults and today's youth want, the youth center needs to offer activities that are not only fun, but that also have a positive influence on the youth.

There are many activities that do just that. Team sports, such as basketball and volleyball, should be offered since team games are a great way for the youth to get to know each other. This would be especially beneficial if the youth do not have many friends; they are given the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Also a common room should be available so that the youth will be able to spend time with their friends and meet new people. Giving our youth that place to go to in a youth center enables them to spend time with friends in a positive environment, free from the pressures they are forced to face in many other places. Since youth today face

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many problems, it would be in the best interest of the youth to have a counselor to talk to, so the center should always have a mentor on hand to do just that. Also the advisor may become the youth's role model, giving them a positive example on how to be. As well as team sports, arts and crafts should be offered. This activity will allow the youth to explore their creative side, possibly causing them to unearth talent they never knew they possessed or give them new ways to express themselves. This can provide the youth with something that they can take pride in, maybe giving them a new view on life or on themselves. The center must strive to provide activities that will have a beneficial effect on today's youth.

Youth deserve to have a center focused on giving them a positive influence, while still having fun. The center needs to be a safe haven for today's youth to escape the pressures of life that they often face. So next Friday night when your children are begging to be set free to go have fun, wouldn't it be comforting to send them off to the youth center and not have to sit at home and worry about them or what they are doing?

The reader can easily understand the main ideas. The writing is characterized by an easily identifiable purpose, supporting ideas that are relevant but may be overly general or limited in places... For example, the sentence "In order to offer that ideal setting that meets what both adults and today's youth want, the center needs to offer activities that are not only fun, but also have a positive influence on the youth" shows clear ideas but employs generalizations.



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Youth need something to occupy themselves. Youth in this community, however, have very little available to them. The new youth center needs to be packed with things to do. The best activities to have are arcade games, tutoring, and intramural sports.

Arcade games would fit perfectly with the youth in this community. These games could take up hours of their time, keeping them away from bad influences. They will be less likely to do drugs because they will be too busy playing games. Arcade games also have one large advantage. Their fast pace causes the brain to think faster, improving reaction time. Hand-eye coordination also improves, as the brain cannot play the game without its army of fingers. The amount of movement required from a player's hands increases manual dexterity. The player can use his newfound skills to improve school work.

The new youth center needs to have tutoring available. Tutoring can help a child to understand their homework and everything else going on in school. With a better comprehension of school, the child is more likely to succeed. Homework help is necessary for those who are good students but have a hard time completing their assigned work. With a little help, those students can learn how to better understand the assignment, and to better budget their time. Tutoring is needed even more nowadays as less and less students are getting good grades. Succeeding brings a rise in self-confidence, when

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Students have already mastered schoolwork and are confident in themselves, they are likely to join a sport.

Most importantly, the new youth center needs intramural sports. Sports keep kids active, healthy, and happy. Sports also provide something fun for kids to do. They provide a competitive environment that is not harsh. Most kids like competition, and having intramural sports would allow this while still remaining friendly. Even more important than that, however, is the fact that being in sports helps build teamwork. This skill is quickly flowing out of kids every day. Teamwork skills are extremely useful on the path of life.

It would greatly benefit the community to include arcade games, tutoring, and intramural sports in the new youth center. Youth in the community need something to do all of the time. Having these activities would give them more to do than they have time to do.

The writing is clear, focused, and interesting. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. ...a thorough, balanced explanation... While somewhat formulaic in structure, this essay is specific in ideas and supporting details.



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In today's world, youths are often tempted to make poor decisions with life altering consequences. Kids are indirectly influenced by our fast-paced media-driven society to solve their problems by taking the easy way out. Sadly, more often than not, the immediate solution to these problems is the use of illegal drugs. To keep youths off the street, we need to provide them with structured activities after school and on the weekends. If adolescents have nothing to keep them busy, they might succumb to the temptations of society and peer pressure, being forever lost as a result. Our community's new youth center is a perfect staging ground to house such activities. To keep our children's lives occupied, I propose that industrial arts and sports programs be added to the youth center.

An industrial arts program would provide educational and fun activities for kids. Industrial art classes provide a hands-on learning experience for youths. Children will be able to learn safety and coordination through supervised use of tools. Youths will be able to learn how to use different mediums, such as wood, to create everyday objects. Scientists have also proven that kids who learn art do significantly better in all school subjects. Industrial art classes would also supply youths with a safe, interesting, and fun environment. If an adolescent actually wants to go to an afterschool activity, they'll be less likely to hang around the streets and fall in with the wrong crowd. Youths who go to industrial art classes will want to learn how to use a bandsaw and make a shelf for their bedroom, instead of smoking marijuana or snorting cocaine. It's obviously evident that an industrial arts program would be perfect for our

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new youth center.

A sports program would help our youths stay physically fit and learn teamwork. Participating in a group sport requires a vast amount of teamwork. Kids that once exhibited antisocial behavior, often learn to be outgoing and tolerable of others, by functioning in a group. Teamwork teaches young ones valuable life lessons, like being equally considerate of others and how not to be selfish. Participating in sports would also keep our youths healthy. Keeping in shape and learning coordination, while making new friends, greatly benefits our children. Having athletic programs is a must for our youth center.

The new youth center is an instrument that can help keep our kids safe and productive in life. Hopefully, the addition of a sports and industrial arts activities is only the beginning of many more positive programs to be held within the new youth center. Help our children develop safely in both intellect and physical health, by approving of the creation of the industrial arts and sports departments in the youth center.

The writing is exceptionally clear. Main ideas are developed with strong support and rich details... This paper has a narrow and clear focus with varied details. By choosing to focus on just one specific activity, the writer has explored it more thoroughly.

